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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,860	12/26/2001	Sylvain Marcotte	13225-5us JA/PAN/df	7637

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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,860

Applicant(s)

MARCOTTE ET AL.

Examiner

Hung S Bui

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 32-51 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-14, 18-24 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6, 15-17 and 25-30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 7-14, 18-20, 22-23 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardt et al. [US 6,229,709] in view of Hill et al. [US 5,546,282] and Bellino et al. [US 5,943,219].

Regarding claims 1-3, 7, 12-14 and 18, Hardt et al. disclose a connector panel (65) for a housing (20) having an opening (figure 1) for accommodating interchangeable electronic cards (16) therein and having shielding form electromagnetic impulses.

Hardt et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the specific structure of the connector panel and the interconnection between the connector panels.

Hill et al. discloses a connector panel (figure 6) printed circuit board (34) with a conductive plane (24); a card connector (44) on the panel adapted for being releasably connected to an electronic card (50) in the housing; at least one input/output connector (36, 38, 40, 42) on a first surface of the panel, the input/output connectors being connected to the card connector by a printed circuit of the printed circuit board (column 3, line 63-column 4, line 4) and adapted for being connected to an input/output of a peripheral device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connector panel design of Hill et al. for the connector panel of Hardt et al. for the purpose of providing prewiring of the input/output connectors.

Bellino et al. disclose a backplane having a plurality of adjacent panels (602, 604, 606) with a resilient gasket shield (612) being mounted between a concave and convex portions of adjacent panels (figure 9).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the gasket design of Bellino et al. for the adjacent panels of Hardt et al., as modified, for the purpose of providing shielding for the interior for the housing.

Regarding claim 4, Hill et al. further disclose the circuit board body having an elongated rectangular shape (figure 6).

Regarding claims 8 and 19, Hill et al. further disclose the printed circuit board body having a first surface and a second surface with the card connector being on the first surface and the input/out connector being on the second surface (figure 6).

Regarding claims 9-10, Hardt et al. disclose an alignment slot/through bore being provided on the connector panel (figure 2).

Regarding claims 11 and 31, Hardt et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the specific type of connector used for the connector panel.

The specific type of connectors use with the connector panel of Hardt et al., as modified, would have been an obvious design consideration based on the specific application of the device.

Regarding claim 20, Hardt et al., as modified, discloses the connector panel being arranged such that electronic card is received in a housing are position to be generally perpendicular to the first surface of the connector panel (figure 1).

Regarding claim 22, Hardt et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for an alignment slot mounted in the connection panel engaging corresponding protrusions in the chassis.

Bellino et al. discloses the connection panels including projections (801) engaging slots (figure 8) of a support chassis (figure 6).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the projection/slot design of Bellino et al. in Hardt et al., as modified, for the purpose of aligning the connection panels on the chassis.

Hardt et al., as modified, disclose the claimed invention except for an alignment slot mounted in the connection panel engaging corresponding protrusions in the chassis. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mount the alignment slots on the connection panel and the protrusions on the chassis, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.

Regarding claim 23, Hardt et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connection panels each having at least one alignment slot on an upper edge thereof and at least one alignment slot on a lower edge thereof for engagement with corresponding protrusion on upper and lower inner surfaces of the chassis.

Bellino et al. disclose the connection panels each having at least one alignment protrusion on an upper edge thereof and at least one alignment protrusion on a lower edge thereof for engagement with corresponding slots on upper and lower inner surfaces of the chassis.

Hardt et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention except for at least one alignment protrusion on an upper edge thereof and at least one alignment protrusion on a lower edge thereof for engagement with corresponding slots on upper and lower inner surfaces of the chassis. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the protrusions on the chassis and the slots on the connector panels since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.

3. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardt et al., as modified, as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Zurek [US 6,028,769].

Regarding claim 21, Hardt et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the chassis being a conductive cast shell.

Zurek discloses a chassis assembly (figure 3) being a conductive cast shell.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use a casting process for the chassis of Hardt et al., as modified, as suggested by Zurek, for the purpose of improving shielding.

4. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardt et al., as modified, as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Godsey et al. [US 4,179,172].

Regarding claim 24, Hardt et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connector panel having a throughbore for being fastened to a tapped hole in the chassis registered with the throughbore.

Godsey et al. disclose a connection panel (56) having at least one throughbore (figure 5) for being fastened to a tapped hole (64) in a chassis (figure 5) registered with the throughbore.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the throughbore/tapped hole design of Godsey et al. for the connection panels of Hardt et al., as modified, for the purpose of securing and locating the connection panels to the chassis.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-6, 15-17 and 25-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 08/05/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that:

-[1]: none of the cited references discloses a panel, positioned side by side to similar panels to cover an opening of a housing.

-[2]: there is no suggestion to combine Hill et al. and Bellino et al.;

Examiner disagrees:

-Regarding [1], Hardt et al. disclose at least one of panels, 65, shown in figure 2, and a plurality of panels, 65, positioned side by side to similar a panel to cover a plurality of opening of a housing 20, shown in figure 1.

-Regarding [2], in response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir.

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1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, A skilled artisan would have been motivated to use the gasket design of Bellino et al. in order to thermally and electronically seal edges of adjacent panels, see Bellino et al., column 5, lines 34-47.

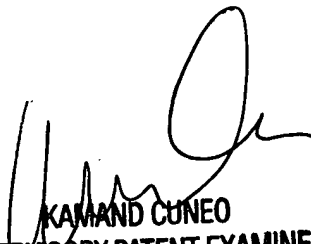
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/14/04
HB


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